



## **Raised House Bill No. 5285, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM**

Date: March 3, 2022

Senator Douglas McCrory  
Representative Bobby Sanchez  
Members of the Education Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Bobby Sanchez, and Education Committee Members:

The Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), which represents the Superintendents of Connecticut's public schools and other executive district leaders, is pleased to offer testimony on **Raised H.B. 5285, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM**, whose purpose is to require that all school districts provide climate change instruction as part of the science curriculum, to establish a pilot program for the teaching of financial literacy and to establish the Connecticut Civics Education Task Force.

Generally, on principle, CAPSS is opposed to unfunded mandates on municipalities. This bill would mandate that climate change be taught as part of the school curricula; currently, this is a permissible topic for school districts. Many, if not most of them, have already incorporated it into their curricula. Similarly, the bill specifically requires the Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) to do a two-year pilot for its member districts about financial literacy. A number of schools already provide such classes as part of their curricula; it is unclear why CREC would be required to take on this additional expense at this time.

Finally, the bill establishes the Connecticut Civics Education Task Force. Civics is already a

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mandated course in high school, as well as being robustly already addressed in the Connecticut Elementary and Secondary Social Studies Frameworks.

CAPSS opposes this bill because of its unfunded mandates and redundancy of efforts and content already in practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James M. Reinsmith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Reinsmith" clearly legible.

Executive Director  
Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents